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27 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Komer Correspondence

1. Attached, in case you wish to glance at them, are copies of my recent cable exchange with Bob Komer. His concern is that any upward revision of VC strength figures will make it appear that the U. S. hasn't been doing very well in whittling the enemy down. Our point is that the VC force structure has been eroded over the past year, but our 1966 holdings were unrealistically low, hence we have been whittling a much larger block than heretofore appreciated. In his reply, he accepts this argument (grudgingly) but complains that it is more important to measure trends than correct the historical record. I will point out to him orally that accurate trend measurement requires a valid base line, which is what we are trying to establish.

2. Bob's final shot (Msg. No. 163) was wrongly passed directly to the White House via an Agency link initially set up for Porter-Komer communications. The White House Situation Room was somewhat shaken up looking around for a staffer named [redacted]. Fortunately, the message was grabbed and order restored by one of our detailees, so there was no compromise. [redacted]

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George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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Attachments: AS

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1 - GAC Chrono